



November 2003

Air Vehicle's senior scientist named as new ST

by Melissa Withrow, Air Vehicles Directorate

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Dr. Ravinder Chona, Air Force Research Laboratory, Air Vehicles Directorate, was formally appointed to the Scientific and Professional (ST) senior executive community on Oct. 10, 2003.

A senior scientist for structural integrity, Chona arrived at the Air Vehicles Directorate in February after 16 years on the Mechanical Engineering faculty at Texas A&M University.

"I was first attracted to this new position by the opportunity to impact critical future strategic needs of the Air Force, such as rapid access to space, the SOV (space operations vehicle), long-range strike, and hypersonic flight," Chona said. "A second and major factor was the energy, enthusiasm, and 'can-do' spirit that is so evident in VA and AFRL, and third was the opportunity to address cutting edge technology challenges in my areas of expertise."

Chona leads, performs, and participates in research and development activities within the newly established Structural Sciences Center. The new center ensures that the Air Force provides the warfighter with structurally sound and affordable vehicles and platforms for long-term needs and future mission requirements. He is recognized expert in experimental solid mechanics, fracture and failure mechanics, and engineering design methods.

Chona has authored and coauthored numerous technical publications in peer-reviewed journals, archival monographs, and conference proceedings. He has contributed papers at national and international meetings. He serves on the editorial boards of two major international journals, has organized and chaired national and international technical programs and symposia.

He has a record of professional service and technical leadership at the national and international level. He received his bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park, Md. @



Dr. Ravinder Chona